

# CARTSNEWS

*The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society*

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to our CARTS membership,

I had hoped to have a couple of articles finished for this newsletter, but an unwelcome bout with the flu wrecked those plans. I'm feeling a little better now, but don't have the time to do the articles. They will be ready by the next issue, though.

I hope Santa was good to you over Christmas. I didn't get any tokens or medals in my stocking this past year, but was extremely fortunate in adding tokens to my collection over the course of the entire year. I added over 80 South Carolina trade tokens throughout all of 2012, and this was my best year in over a decade. Purchasing a couple of collections helped greatly towards that total, but quite a few also came to me in groups of two or three at a time.

Please mark your calendars for our **Spring CARTS meeting on May 11, 2013**. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Spartanburg, SC. The street address is 895 Spartan Boulevard, Spartanburg, SC 29301. The hotel is located very near Westgate Mall, which in turn is located at Exit 21 off of I-26. We have the meeting room reserved for the entire day, but will probably not need it after lunchtime. We plan on getting started at 9AM.

I hope to see everyone there on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, if not before at a local coin show.

Regards,  
Tony Chibbaro  
President, CARTS

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The Hickory meeting had the smallest attendance of any CARTS meeting yet—only 6 people. But a good time was had by all. There was buying, selling, and tale telling with fellow collectors. It's hard to think what might be better.

Bob King gave the Treasurer's report. The October funds on hand amounted to \$941.00. The August and November newsletters cost \$116.58 and the estimated cost of the meeting room was \$75.00 leaving a balance of \$749.42 as of the meeting date.

There are currently 31 paid members, but we need about 35. And speaking of paid members, here's the reminder to **pay your dues for 2013. Please send that check for \$10.00 to Bob King.**

Finally, on page 6 there are directions to the CARTS meeting of May 11 in Spartanburg, SC. See you there!

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know! **Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!**

# CARRBORO BARBER SHOP BATH TOKEN: KNOWN BUT NOT YET FOUND A Research Narrative

## Lamar Bland

My research on this token began in 2009, when the following die was offered for sale on-line.



My Rand-McNally atlas identified Carrboro, N.C. as the only town with that name in the United States. From a Chapel Hill City Directory I confirmed that a Carrboro Barber Shop was located at 138 Main Street in 1957. Jesse E. Hackney and John A. Williford were barbers there. I live twenty minutes from Carrboro, so I was able to find and photograph that location, below.



Surely local residents could lead me to the token, I thought. Emily Cameron, a friend and employee of Chapel Hill town government, suggested I talk with Raymond Pendergrass, age 76. He remembered getting haircuts in the shop during World War II (he was 8-9 at the time), but could not recall if the shop had showers or tokens. He remembered Hackney (who chewed tobacco) and Williford (who was unusually tall).

More than a year passed before I learned more. Then I found a copy of *IMAGES OF AMERICA: CARRBORO*, published in the Arcadia series (2011) by David Otto and Richard Ellington. I conversed with Richard at a book-signing, where he told me he hadn't seen a token from the shop, but had heard locals refer to them. From his childhood he knew the shop had showers, which he thought were probably used by men who worked in Julian Carr's textile mill just one street away. He told me I might learn more from Trillis (Hackney) Sparrow, the one surviving child of Jesse Hackney, and Al Hackney (nephew of Jesse). He also said he could give me transcripts of interviews, taped in 1974, with Jesse's wife Mary, and Jesse's son Joel.

I learned from these sources that Jesse had begun barbering in the 1920's and had rented an earlier shop, its name unknown, prior to the one on Main Street. Ellington's book indicated that Jesse and Alan White owned a later shop in 1934—presumably the Carrboro Barber Shop where the token was used. Jesse's nephew Al earned pocket money shining shoes in the shop in the late 1930's, and he confirmed that he had seen tokens there.

The Carrboro book also contains a photograph, re-printed below, showing the shop's location in 1953. Carrboro Barber Shop was just to the right of the barber-pole below the Smoke Shop sign. The Smoke Shop cafe separates Carrboro Beauty Shoppe from the men's

barber shop. A second photo, this one owned by Jesse's daughter Trillis Sparrow, shows Hackney inside shaving a customer.



My research narrative ends with the token's existence proven, but with the token unsighted. When it is found, the token will measure 18 mm and show the die image reflected in this mirror shot.



The narrative ends as research typically ends—open to new findings. I would love to hear if the token is found by a reader.

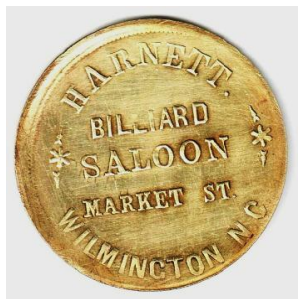
## THE PITFALLS OF TOKEN COLLECTING

**Bob King**

I have collected North Carolina Tokens continuously since 1985. Granted I was clueless for several years. I didn't know what was hard to get and what was common or how much to pay for common or rare. Even in all those years including the early years I was looking for a North Carolina Saloon Token and was confident that they would show up and I would get at least one or two. This past year I realized that I could go a lifetime and not get a saloon token unless I took some initiative to seek out the known saloon tokens. I knew a California collector that owned two NC Saloon Tokens and would sell them. I had priced them two years ago at the big NTCA Show and I was absolutely positive that they were overpriced so I had passed on them. But, by 2012 I had become like a teenager looking for his first car and I had lost all my common sense about price. So I made plans to go to

Salt Lake City to the NTCA Show specifically to get a saloon token. Now I don't ever recommend the NTCA Show to NC Collectors because one can take the amount spent on the trip and buy 10 good NC Tokens. Even so this was to be my 3<sup>rd</sup> NTCA Show in six years so I am clearly a slow learner. I spent the first morning looking for NC Tokens other than the object of my trip. I wasn't worried that someone would buy them from under my nose because of the obviously foolish price. By late afternoon I hadn't bought a single NC Token so I decided to buy the saloon I went for. I made the deal for the Harnett Billiard Saloon because it is the oldest good for token from NC known to me. Overnight I rationalized that I should buy the second NC Saloon owned by the same dealer "since I would probably never have a chance to buy another NC Saloon Token". Next morning I made the deal and left for home with 2 saloon tokens.

After I got home and my wife cleared her head of the "vapors" brought on by my spending I was finally happy with my collection. Now, all is well—right? Shortly after returning home I got a call from a good friend and fellow collector and he was excited to offer me the opportunity to buy a North Carolina Saloon Token that I hadn't heard of before. It was a maverick but a two last names, 100% attribution to NC. Naturally, I had to buy it, so now I am broke but the proud owner of 3 NC Saloon Tokens, shown below.



**HARNETT / BILLIARD / SALOON / MARKET ST.**  
/ (ORN) WILMINGTON NC (ORN) // D.J.  
GILBERT'S / CHECK / GOOD FOR / CTS—RD BR  
32 Rare



The 1860 Census lists D.J. Gilbert as a 41 year old bar keeper. City directories, Branson's Directories, Dun Directories and Bradstreet Directories show the following men owned the Harnett Billiard Saloon from 1860 through 1877. (The 1877 date was selected because that is the last year for which there is evidence of D.J. Gilbert in Wilmington.) In the 1860s L. Montague, Harry Webb and H. Marcus were listed as the business owners at 20 Market Street. D. J. Gilbert was operating a bar at 40 North Water Street. In the 1870s D.J. Gilbert ran a bar at 4 South Water Street. No evidence was found of a saloon at 20 Market Street, the location of Harnett Billiard Saloon. These facts lead one to believe that Mr. Gilbert ran the Harnett Billiard Saloon in the late 1850s. It is possible that he ran the saloon during the war years since records are scarce to non-existent during that time. Also known, is the following token.

**HARNETT / BILLIARD / SALOON / MARKET ST.**  
/ (ORN) WILMINGTON NC (ORN) // D.J.  
GILBERT'S / CHECK / GOOD FOR / 25 / CTS.—RD  
WM 32 Rare (WM IS GERMAN SILVER)

These tokens are the oldest North Carolina "GOOD FOR" Tokens known to this author. These tokens were listed in a numismatic catalog in 1859 so obviously they were struck in the 1850s or earlier. Notice that a denomination wasn't struck into the first token as the incuse denomination seen on other examples. This may indicate that it was good for one drink or never issued.



**THEO. JOSEPH, / LAGER / BEER SALOON / \* /**  
RALEIGH, N.C. // (BLANK)—RD BR 20 Rare

Theodore Joseph is listed from 1875 through 1885 as a saloon and restaurant at the corner of Hargett and Salisbury Streets. His advertisements noted a fine selection of lager beers, especially Jacob Seeger's Baltimore Lager Beer. By 1883 he also featured billiards.



**GIERSH & STONEBANKS / 12 1/2 / SALOON //**  
(REVERSE IS SAME AS OBVERSE)—RD AL 24  
Rare (Raleigh)

R. Giersh and C.H. Stonebanks owned this saloon and restaurant from 1889 through 1893. Mr. Stonebanks continued in the restaurant business in 1894 and 1895. Prior to the Giersh and Stonebanks partnership Mr. Giersh owned a saloon in 1888 and Mr. Stonebanks was listed as "oysters" in 1887.

## NC NEW FINDS

**Bob King**



**UNITED MILLS STORE / (PROPELLER) / MORTIMER, / N.C. // GOOD FOR / \$1.00 / IN / MERCHANDISE / ONLY—SC (12) AL 38 Rare**

United Mills was a branch of United Mills of Hickory. Another branch was in High Point. This mill is frequently mistaken for a lumber mill because Mortimer was built to support the lumber business. United Mills of Mortimer made yarns and ran a general store where this token was used. The business operated from 1921 through 1929 when the ownership changed and the name was changed to Hickory Spinning Company. This location is the most isolated of any other textile mill in North Carolina. The mill foundation can still be seen today.

Mortimer is located in western Caldwell County about a mile from Avery County. Mortimer was named Houck from 1888 through January 1905. Mortimer had a post office from 1888 through September 1919 when the mail was sent to Edgemont. Edgemont is about 1 1/2 miles north of Mortimer.

## North Carolina Collector

Buyer of NC Singles or Collections

State sections of B&D for sale/trade

Trader list for all state tokens

Enthusiastic researcher

Robert S. King, 709 Cardinal Dr.

Brevard, NC 28712

828-883-8028 [tokenadict@citcom.net](mailto:tokenadict@citcom.net)

Want to buy southern states tokens.

You price or I will make an offer, your choice.

I don't make flea market offers. I pay top dollar for tokens I need and top wholesale for tokens I have.

I want mavericks and one is fine. Give me A chance, we will make a deal.

**Want to buy R. G. Dun and Bradstreet**

1963 & newer

1882, 1884 & 1897

Need a full book for 1910, 1911 or 1912

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### WANTED

**I WANT TEXTILE (COTTON MILL) PRODUCTION TOKENS**—doffer/doffing checks, spinning checks, slasher checks, spooler/spooling checks, quiller checks, etc. Don Bailey, P.O. Box 1272 Etowah, NC 28729, 828-891-3501, [ELADON@MORRISBB.NET](mailto:ELADON@MORRISBB.NET)

### MISCELLEANOUS

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THE HISTORY FOR ONE OF YOUR TOKENS?** I enjoy research so drop me a line or phone call and I will do the history of your token. Robert S. King (Bob) 709 Cardinal Dr. Brevard, NC 28712, 828-883-8028, [tokenaddict@citcom.net](mailto:tokenaddict@citcom.net)

**MAIL YOUR \$10.00 DUES CHECK TO BOB KING AT 709 CARDINAL DRIVE, BREVARD, NC 28712 TODAY.**

### DIRECTIONS TO THE MAY 11 MEETING IN SPARTANBURG

**From I-26** take exit 21 B onto US 29 N / Warren Abernathy Hwy. In .6 mile turn left onto Blackstock Rd. In .7 mile turn left onto Spartan Blvd. You should see the Holiday Inn Express.

**From I-85** take I-26 south and follow the directions above.

### **DRIVE CAREFULLY**

**CARTS Membership and Dues:** Application for membership in CARTS is invited from anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

**CARTSNEWS:** CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

**Advertising:** Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.

**ONE MORE TIME! REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR 2013 DUES!**